# **TARIFF ACTION MEMO**

**Date:** October 23, 2023

Date Filed: September 14, 2023

Statutory End Date: October 30, 2023

**File No:** TA177-122; TA179-126

Name of Utility: Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility

**Subject:** Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU), on behalf of Anchorage Water Utility (AWU) and Anchorage Sewer Utility (ASU), submits the annual revision to its Levy Upon Connection (LUC) rates for both water and wastewater service.

### Recommendations

Staff recommends the Commission should approve:

- 1. Tariff Sheet No. 164, filed September 14, 2023, by AWWU on behalf of AWU with TA177-122, as shown on the attached side-by-side tariff sheet (Appendix 1). The effective date of the tariff sheet should be October 30, 2023.
- 2. Tariff Sheet No.128, filed September 14, 2023, by AWWU on behalf of ASU with TA179-126, as shown on the attached side-by-side tariff sheet (Appendix 1). The effective date of the tariff sheet should be October 30, 2023.

Please see attached Staff Memorandum supporting the above recommendations.

Signed: Keiba Kimp

Keiba Kimp Title: <u>Utility Tariff Analyst</u> Commission decision regarding this recommendation: Date (if different I Will Write A Dissenting from I Do Not 10/23/2023) I Concur Concur Statement\* Kurber Doyle Espindola RMP Pickett

JWW

10/24/23

Wilson

<sup>\*</sup> If this column is initialed, Staff will contact the Commissioner for the statement; otherwise, the dissent will simply be noted at the close of the By Direction letter or order.

### **MEMORANDUM**

To: Keith Kurber II, Chairman Date: October 23, 2023

> Robert A. Doyle John Espindola Robert M. Pickett Janis W. Wilson

From: Keiba Kimp, Utility Tariff Analyst

Subject: Annual LUC Update

## Recommendations

Staff recommends the Commission should approve:

- 1. Tariff Sheet No. 164, filed September 14, 2023, by AWWU on behalf of AWU with TA177-122, as shown on the attached side-by-side tariff sheet (Appendix 1). The effective date of the tariff sheet should be October 30, 2023.
- 2. Tariff Sheet No.128, filed September 14, 2023, by AWWU on behalf of ASU with TA179-126, as shown on the attached side-by-side tariff sheet (Appendix 1). The effective date of the tariff sheet should be October 30, 2023.

## Background

AWWU is a municipally owned water and wastewater utility providing service in the Municipality of Anchorage (with the exception of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson).<sup>1</sup> AWWU most recently revised its rules governing the application of LUC rates in TA166-122 and TA167-126, filed May 12, 2020, and approved with Letter Order No. L2000238, issued June 19, 2020.

## Filing

AWWU now submits TA177-122 for AWU and TA179-126 for ASU, proposing to update the LUC Rate Schedule with rates for utility pipe construction in 2023. With these filings, AWWU filed Tariff Sheet Nos. 164 (sewer) and 128 (water) and filed the calculation of the LUC.

#### Notice

The Commission issued a public notice for TA177-122 and TA179-126 on September 19, 2023, with comments requested by October 19, 2023. No comments were received.

## Analysis/Discussion

The LUC rate methodology, described in detail in AWU's tariff at Rule 8.3.A.1 and ASU's tariff at Rule 8.3.B.1, is based on a five year average of certified project costs (including grant funded expenses) and uses the Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Including Anchorage, Eagle River, Chugiak, Eklutna, Indian, and Girdwood.

(ENRCCI) to adjust the construction costs for any inflation between the year the project was closed and the LUC assessment year.<sup>2</sup> In years where no projects are levied, the net certified project costs for that year are the cost of the last preceding year in which such assessments were levied, adjusted using the annual average of the ENRCCI. Additionally, for each year, the annual levied costs are adjusted to the calculation test year using the ENRCCI.<sup>3</sup>

Because the LUC rate is a square-footage rate applied to the benefitted area of utility constructed projects, AWWU uses the actual levied total assessed square-footage area from each improvement district for the last five years.<sup>4</sup> If the resulting LUC rate varies from the prior year by more than 10 percent (after adjusting for inflation), AWWU adjusts the calculation to minimize the fluctuation to within the 10 percent range.<sup>5</sup>

# TA177-122 AWU LUC Decrease (Tariff Sheet No. 164)

The proposed AWU LUC rate is \$1.35332 for 2023, a decrease compared with the approved 2022 LUC rate of \$1.40018. AWU indicated that the decrease per square foot of approximately five cents from the 2022 LUC rate is a result of the decrease in average certified project costs, largely due to the addition of the water distribution improvement districts associated with the acquisition of Southcentral Utilities by AWWU in 2017.<sup>6</sup> The proposed 2023 rate is a decrease of \$0.04686, or 3.35 percent, before the 2022 AWU LUC rate is adjusted for inflation.<sup>7</sup> Staff reviewed AWU's proposed LUC rate for 2023 and found that the proposed calculation is in accordance with the methodology approved by the Commission.<sup>8</sup> The methodology limits the change in the AWU LUC rate to not more than a 10 percent increase or decrease above or below the previous year's AWU LUC rate adjusted by the ENRCCI. The approved LUC formula also requires an adjustment to the total five-year project cost if the LUC rate deviates beyond 10 percent of the previous LUC rate after including the effect of inflation. Adjustments of \$4,673,029 for 2023 Levied Project Costs were made to keep the LUC rate within a 10 percent deviation.<sup>9</sup>

$$\textit{LUC Rate} = \frac{\Sigma \textit{WID} | \textit{LID Cost for the last five years}}{\Sigma \textit{WID} | \textit{LID Benefitted area for the last five years}}$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For example, a project can close in 2021 but take until 2022 to certify and assess the project costs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See AWU Tariff Sheet Nos. 128.2 and 128.3, effective March 17, 2017. See also ASU Tariff Sheet No. 95.3, effective March 17, 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Current LUC calculations are attached as Appendix 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See AWU Tariff Sheet No. 128.3, effective March 17, 2017. See also ASU Tariff Sheet No. 95.4, effective March 17, 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See tariff advice letter for TA177-122, at page 1.

 $<sup>^{7}</sup>$  When adjusted for inflation according to the ENRCCI (the 2021 - 2022 inflation factor is 107.20 percent), the 2022 AWU LUC rate is \$1.5010 (\$1.40018 \* 1.0720 = \$1.5010).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The Commission approved the LUC assessment calculation methodology in 2002, which was described as follows in the Appendix to Order U-99-115(10)/ U-99-152(9).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See tariff advice letter for TA177-122, at page 4.

# TA179-126 ASU LUC Increase (Tariff Sheet No. 128)

The proposed ASU LUC rate is \$2.36078 for 2023. The proposed 2023 rate is an increase of \$0.1586 from the prior year, or 7.20 percent, before the 2022 ASU LUC rate is adjusted for inflation. ASU indicated that the increase per square foot of approximately 16 cents for 2023 is due to cost inflation as reported in the ENRCCI and the Highland-2 Project. Staff reviewed ASU's proposed LUC rate for 2023 and found that the proposed calculations are in accordance with the methodology approved by the Commission. As previously stated, the methodology limits the change in the ASU LUC rate to not more than a 10 percent increase or decrease above or below the previous year's ASU LUC rate adjusted by the ENRCCI. The approved LUC formula also requires an adjustment to the total five-year project cost if the LUC rate deviates beyond 10 percent of the previous LUC rate after including the effect of inflation. No adjustment was made to reduce the average project cost to ensure the increase in the LUC rate does not exceed the 10 percent limit.

## **Tariff Sheets**

Staff reviewed Tariff Sheet Nos. 164 and 128. Staff verified the proposed rates were calculated accurately using AWWU's approved methodologies, the proper support was filed, and the tariff sheets are correct.

### Conclusion

With TA177-122 and TA179-126, AWWU on behalf of AWU and ASU, respectively, proposes to update the 2023 LUC rates. Based on the discussion above, Staff recommends the Commission approve Tariff Sheet No.164, filed September 14, 2023, by AWWU for AWU, with TA177-122, and Tariff Sheet No. 128, filed September 14, 2023, by AWWU for ASU, with TA179-126. The effective date of the tariff sheets should be October 30, 2023.

Signature: Bob Doyle

Bob Doyle (Oct 23, 2023 09:05 AKDT)

Email: bob.doyle@alaska.gov

Signature: John Espindola
John Espindola (Oct 23, 2023 09:07 AKDT)

Email: John.Espindola@Alaska.gov

Signature: Bob Pickett (Oct 23, 2023 09:14 AKDT)

Email: bob.pickett@alaska.gov

Signature: Janis W. Wilson

Jays W. Wilson (Oct 24, 2023 12:12 AKDT)

Email: janis.wilson@alaska.gov

Signature: Keith Kurber !!

 $\textit{LUC Rate} = \frac{\text{$\Sigma$WID}|\text{$LID$ Cost for the last five years}}{\text{$\Sigma$WID}|\text{$LID$ Benefitted area for the last five years}}$ 

Email: keith.kurber@alaska.gov

 $<sup>^{10}</sup>$  When adjusted for inflation according to the ENRCCI (the 2021 - 2022 inflation factor is 107.20 percent), the 2022 ASU LUC rate is \$2.3607 (\$2.20218 \* 1.0720 = \$2.08106).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> See tariff advice letter for TA179-126, at page 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The Commission approved the LUC assessment calculation methodology in 2002, which was described as follows in the Appendix to Order U-99-115(10)/ U-99-152(9).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> See tariff advice letter for TA179-126, at page 1.

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		Tv	velfth Revision	Sheet No.	164	STA	17 2022 TE OF ALASKA	
		Ancho	rage Water Utilit	ty		REGULATORY	COMMISSION OF AL	.ASKA
13.0 RA	TES, FEES	S AND C	HARGES (contin	ued)				
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13.1	RATE	SCHED	ULE NO. 1 – FEE	S AND SPEC	CIAL CHAI	RGES-NON-		
	RECU.	RRING (	(continued)					
	Rule		Jpon-Connection		Assessmen	t rates. Follow	ing are	
	<u>8.6</u>	the LU	C Rates for years:					
		1971	and prior	\$ 0.08000	1999		\$ 0.85182	
		1972	and prior	\$ 0.09093	2000		\$ 0.88661	
		1972		\$ 0.03033	2000		\$ 0.88661	
		1973		\$ 0.11973	2001		\$ 1.01818	
		1975		\$ 0.07645	2002		\$ 1.07490	
		1976		\$ 0.13303	2003		\$ 1.02721	
		1977		\$ 0.24611	2005		\$ 0.98347	
		1978		\$ 0.26368	2006		\$ 0.92197	
		1979		\$ 0.19419	2007		\$ 0.86376	
		1980		\$ 0.10279	2008		\$ 0.79895	
		1981		\$ 0.36222	2009		\$ 0.75001	
		1982		\$ 0.12343	2010		\$ 0.85082	
		1983		\$ 0.13121	2011		\$ 0.96122	
		1984		\$ 0.29245	2012		\$ 1.08990	
		1985		\$ 0.16050	2012		\$ 1.23037	
		1986		\$ 0.16030	2013		\$ 1.38814	
		1987		\$ 0.42901	2015		\$ 1.56838	
		1988		\$ 0.42701	2016		\$ 1.77213	
		1989		\$ 0.30094	2017		\$ 2.01044	
		1990		\$ 0.24782	2018		\$ 1.88302	
		1991		\$ 0.33707	2019		\$ 1.74836	(R)
		1992		\$ 0.34530	2020		\$ 1.60972	(14)
		1993		\$ 0.34330	2020		\$ 1.47757	(N)
		1994		\$ 0.49425	2021		\$ 1.47737	(N)
		1995		\$ 0.63353	2022		\$ 1.40016	(14)
		1996		\$ 0.63333				
		1997		\$ 0.66941				
		1998		\$ 0.87616				
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			ULE NO.I)										
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			Jpon-Connection ( C Rates for years:		Assessmen	t rates. Follow	ing are						
		1971	and prior	\$ 0.08000	1999		\$ 0.85182						
		1972		\$ 0.09093	2000		\$ 0.88661						
		1973		\$ 0.11973	2001		\$ 0.92564						
		1974		\$ 0.07849	2002		\$ 1.01818						
		1975		\$ 0.13565	2003		\$ 1.07490						
		1976		\$ 0.22743	2004		\$ 1.02721						
		1977		\$ 0.24611	2005		\$ 0.98347						
		1978		\$ 0.26368	2006		\$ 0.92197						
		1979		\$ 0.19419	2007		\$ 0.86376						
		1980		\$ 0.10279	2008		\$ 0.79895						
		1981		\$ 0.36222	2009		\$ 0.75001						
		1982		\$ 0.12343	2010		\$ 0.85082						
		1983		\$ 0.13121	2011		\$ 0.96122						
		1984		\$ 0.29245	2012		\$ 1.08990						
		1985		\$ 0.16050	2013		\$ 1.23037						
		1986		\$ 0.16178	2014		\$ 1.38814						
		1987		\$ 0.42901	2015		\$ 1.56838						
		1988		\$ 0.22727	2016		\$ 1.77213						
		1989		\$ 0.30094	2017		\$ 2.01044						
		1990		\$ 0.24782	2018		\$ 1.88302						
		1991		\$ 0.33707	2019		\$ 1.74836						
		1992		\$ 0.34530	2020		\$ 1.60972						
		1993		\$ 0.46969	2021		\$ 1.47757						
		1994		\$ 0.49425	2022		\$ 1.40018						
		1995		\$ 0.63353	2023		\$ 1.35332	(N)					
		1996		\$ 0.64284									
		1997		\$ 0.66941									
		1998		\$ 0.87616									
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		A	nchorag	ge Wastewater Ut	tility				
13.0	RATE	S, FEES	S AND C	HARGES (contin	ued)		1		
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	13.1			<u>ULE NO. 1 – FEE continued)</u>	S AND SPEC	JAL CHAR	GES-NON-		
			,						
		Rule	-	Jpon-Connection	(LUC) Sewer	Assessment	rates. Follow	ing are the	
		8.6	LUC ra	ates for years:					
			1971	and prior	\$ 0.09000	1999		\$ 0.72523	
			1972		\$ 0.07128	2000		\$ 0.73435	
			1973		\$ 0.09968	2001		\$ 0.83214	
			1974		\$ 0.03300	2002		\$ 0.03214	
			1975		\$ 0.08859	2002		\$ 1.03791	
			1976		\$ 0.06637	2003		\$ 0.95644	
			1977		\$ 0.13508	2005		\$ 0.98144	
			1977		\$ 0.18323	2005		\$ 0.95865	
			1979		\$ 0.19340	2007		\$ 0.93803	
			1980		\$ 0.24204	2007		\$ 0.98317	
			1980		\$ 0.22703	2008		\$ 0.91124	
			1982		\$ 0.12052	2010		\$ 0.88554	
			1983		\$ 0.19344	2011		\$ 0.90951	
			1984		\$ 0.22043	2012		\$ 0.93720	
			1985		\$ 0.29314	2013		\$ 1.05786	
			1986		\$ 0.28584	2014		\$ 1.19346	
			1987		\$ 0.23390	2015		\$ 1.34837	
			1988		\$ 0.34521	2016		\$ 1.52084	
			1989		\$ 0.32360	2017		\$ 1.72690	
			1990		\$ 0.33530	2018		\$ 1.98095	
			1991		\$ 0.48739	2019		\$ 2.00779	
			1992		\$ 0.49929	2020		\$ 2.04754	
			1993		\$ 0.34096	2021		\$ 2.08106	(N)
			1994		\$ 0.35879	2022		\$ 2.20218	(N)
			1995		\$ 0.60796				
			1996		\$ 0.61689				
			1997		\$ 0.57969				
			1998		\$ 0.65114				
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Fourteenth Revision Sheet No.

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			Anchor	age Wastewater	Utility			RCA	
3.0	RATES	S, FEES	AND C	CHARGES (contin	iued)				
	13.1	RATE	SCHED	ULE NO. 1 – FEE	ES AND SPEC	IAL CHA	RGES-NON-		
				(continued)					
		Rule <u>8.6</u>		Upon-Connection ates for years:	(LUC) Sewer	Assessmer	nt rates. Follow	ing are the	
			1971	and prior	\$ 0.09000	1999		\$ 0.72523	
			1972	una prior	\$ 0.07128	2000		\$ 0.73435	
			1973		\$ 0.09968	2001		\$ 0.83214	
			1974		\$ 0.11313	2001		\$ 0.83214	
			1975		\$ 0.08859	2002		\$ 1.03791	
			1976		\$ 0.15308	2004		\$ 0.95644	
			1977		\$ 0.18525	2005	***************************************	\$ 0.98144	
			1978		\$ 0.19340	2006		\$ 0.95865	
			1979		\$ 0.24204	2007		\$ 0.98517	
			1980		\$ 0.22703	2008		\$ 0.91124	
			1981		\$ 0.13946	2009		\$ 0.85867	
			1982		\$ 0.12052	2010		\$ 0.88554	
			1983		\$ 0.19344	2011		\$ 0.90951	
			1984		\$ 0.22043	2012		\$ 0.93720	
			1985		\$ 0.29314	2013		\$ 1.05786	
			1986		\$ 0.28584	2014		\$ 1.19346	
			1987		\$ 0.23390	2015		\$ 1.34837	
			1988		\$ 0.34521	2016		\$ 1.52084	
			1989		\$ 0.32360	2017		\$ 1.72690	
			1990		\$ 0.33530	2018		\$ 1.98095	
			1991		\$ 0.48739	2019		\$ 2.00779	
			1992		\$ 0.49929	2020		\$ 2.04754	
			1993		\$ 0.34096	2021		\$ 2.08106	
			1994			2021		\$ 2.20218	
					\$ 0.35879				0
			1995		\$ 0.60796	2023		\$ 2.36078	(
			1996		\$ 0.61689				
			1997		\$ 0.57969				
			1998		\$ 0.65114				
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Mark A. Corsentino, P.E.

Appendix 1 TA179-126

General Manager

# Anchorage Water Utility

## Annual LUC Rate Calculation - 2023 Levied Projects 2018 - 2022

		Year		C	ertified Project Co	ost		WID
Line	Year	Project		\$ in Year	ENRCCI		\$ in	Assessments
No.	Levied	Closed	Project Description	Closed	Inflation Factor		2022	Total Sq. Ft.
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)		(f)	(g)
1	2017	2016	Southcentral Utilities Inc., Acquisition	\$233,211	125.82%	\$	\$293,417	907,418
2	2018	2017	No Projects in 2017 (2016 inflated to 2017 \$) (1)	\$242,212	121.14%	\$	293,417	907,418
3	2019	2018	No Projects in 2018 (2017 inflated to 2018 \$) (1)	\$249,544	117.58%	\$	293,417	907,418
4	2020	2019	No Projects in 2019 (2018 inflated to 2019 \$) (1)	\$254,484	115.30%	\$	293,417	907,418
5	2021	2020	No Projects in 2020 (2019 inflated to 2020 \$) (1)	\$258,650	113.44%	\$	293,417	907,418
6	2022	2021	No Projects in 2021 (2010 inflated to 2021 \$) (1)	\$273,704	107.20%	\$	293,417	907,418
7	Levied 2	2018 - 202	22	\$1,278,595		\$1	,467,084	4,537,090
8	A dinetm	ent to I a	vied Project Cost (minimize annual fluctuations to 10%	or less)		\$1	,673,029	
9		ted Projec	`	or iess)			,140,113	
9	Aujus	ieu Frojec	et Cost			\$0	,140,113	
10	2023 LU	JC Rate:	Adj. Project Cost (f9) / WID Total Assessments Sq.	Ft. (g7)		\$	1.35332	
11	Approve	d 2022 L	UC Rate	,		\$	1.40018	
12	% Chang	ge from P	rior Year				(3.35%)	
			T					
13			n Factor: 2021 - 2022			_	107.20%	
14			ncluding Inflation from 2021 to 2022			\$	1.5010	
15								

## **ENRCCI Index Table 2013 - 2022 (Base 1913 = 100)**

		2022 Inflation
Year	ENRCCI	Factor
2013	9,547	136.24%
2014	9,806	132.64%
2015	10,035	129.61%
2016	10,338	125.82%
2017	10,737	121.14%
2018	11,062	117.58%
2019	11,281	115.30%
2020	11,466	113.44%
2021	12,133	107.20%
2022	13,007	100.00%

<sup>(1)</sup> Consistent with the LUC rate calculation in AWU Tariff Rule 8.6, for years in which no WIDs were levied, a proxy amount is used based upon the last levied project, including inflation, to the year having no projects. The Southcentral Utilities Inc. Acquisition certified projects costs and total square feet is the proxy source.

## Anchorage Wastewater Utility

## Annual LUC Rate Calculation - 2023 Levied Projects 2018 - 2022

				C	ertified Project Cos	t	LID
Line	Year	Year Project		\$ in Year	ENRCCI	\$ in	Assessments
No.	Levied	Closed	Project Description	Closed	Inflation Factor	2022	Total Sq. Ft.
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
1	2014	2013	Highland-2	\$506,274	136.24%	\$689,748	292,169
2	2018	2017	No Projects in 2017 (2016 inflated to 2017 \$) (1)	\$569,379	121.14%	\$689,748	292,169
3	2019	2018	No Projects in 2018 (2017 inflated to 2018 \$) (1)	\$586,614	117.58%	\$689,748	292,169
4	2020	2019	No Projects in 2019 (2018 inflated to 2019 \$) (1)	\$598,227	115.30%	\$689,748	292,169
5	2021	2020	No Projects in 2020 (2019 inflated to 2020 \$) (1)	\$608,020	113.44%	\$689,748	292,169
6	2022	2021	No Projects in 2021 (2020 inflated to 2021 \$) (1)	\$643,408	107.20%	\$689,748	292,169
7	Levied 201	18 - 2022		\$3,005,648		\$3,448,739	1,460,845

Adjustment to Levied Project Cost (minimize annual fluctuations to 10% or less)

Adjusted Project Cost

\$3,448,739

10	2023 LUC Rate: Adj. Project Cost (f9) / WID Total Assessments Sq. Ft. (g7)	\$ 2.36078
11	Approved 2022 LUC Rate	\$ 2.20218
12	% Change from Prior Year	7.20%
13	ENRCCI Inflation Factor: 2021 - 2022	107.20%
14	2022 LUC Rate Including Inflation from 2021 to 2022	\$ 2.36078
15	% Change from Prior Year LUC Rate Including Inflation 2021 - 2022	0.00%

## **ENRCCI Index Table 2013 - 2022 (Base 1913 = 100)**

		-1 Inflation
Year	ENRCCI	Factor
2013	9,547	136.24%
2014	9,806	132.64%
2015	10,035	129.61%
2016	10,338	125.82%
2017	10,737	121.14%
2018	11,062	117.58%
2019	11,281	115.30%
2020	11,466	113.44%
2021	12,133	107.20%
2022	13,007	100.00%

<sup>(1)</sup> Consistent with the LUC rate calculation in ASU Tariff Rule 8.6, for years in which no LIDs were levied, a proxy amount is used based upon the last levied project, including inflation, to the year having no projects. The Highland-2 certified project costs and total square feet was used as the proxy source.